

TOC H JOURNAL

Vol. III.

APRIL, 1925

No. 4

The Editor accepts no responsibility for statements made or opinions expressed by authors of articles or in speeches at meetings.

Communications for insertion next month must reach the Editor not later than the last Thursday of this month (April 30).

A NEW PILGRIMS' PROGRESS—III.

New York City,

26.2.25.

CHAPTER I—in case you escaped it—brought two Padres of Toc H on a leisurely journey across the Atlantic, gave them a day on shore at Halifax, and was duly sealed down between Rum Row and the Statue of Liberty, which looks out towards that anchored line of disreputable shipping, mercifully now mainly French and Spanish. Chapter II is begun at midnight, owing to the absence of my trainer who is starring for two nights at certain schools in New England. It is to contain a chronicle of small coffee concerning Toc H, and as many ill-digested observations on America as writer and reader can keep awake for. Behold me therefore, if you will, ensconced in the generous guest-room of the General Theological Seminary, a dour block of building, which stands in the drab area of Chelsea, N.Y., many miles away from the heights on which the Cathedral already lifts its ambitious choir.

I decline to pen even a paragraph on the topography of New York City. To a mathematician there is nothing more simple, but to such as have not the low cunning of arithmetic, progress is full of headaches and hesitancy, and to hesitate on a side-walk (*alias* pavement) is to be swept into a subway and trampled on, or on to the roadway and then despatched forthwith. Truthfully, human life is held lightly enough, to judge—a dangerous criterion—from the papers, which are chronicles of crime and accident that would leave our worst Sunday papers stale. Salt is of course a wholesome relish in reading them, but the substratum of fact is sufficiently alarming to the stranger accustomed to a tame and docile country, and the chief distress is to remember that most of the gun-men are young life run wild, as recently in Ireland.

The student of all this must first unlearn the facile theory that New York is English in character. At a further stage he would probably find that it is not representatively American. English is officially the language of the City, accents and idioms apart, but the “foreign” population is far more numerous and (in a sense) no less native. The old stock is a survival, still of great influence, but by ratio of increase dying out, and there are probably a million more Jews in the City than ever there were in Jerusalem. Very few of the adult inhabitants were

born here ; they are sojourners rather than citizens ; and they came, not (like the first stock) on account of some high-minded doctrinal tiff, but to make money faster than is possible elsewhere. For all this, which is no one's fault whatever, we must learn to make allowances. Courtesy and consideration—our shouldering of the debt for allied munitions, our tactful concession of the ten miles limit—is well worth while ; for whereas only one section of the people are indeed in any sense our cousins, our optimism about America is constructive and stabilising. Europe must—to borrow a phrase from theology—justify by anticipation, and, indeed, they will prove neither ungrateful nor unworthy of a certain patience and a deep regard. For their aspirations are as unbounded as their resources ; and here the greatest people in the world of the far future are likely to be born. We of the Old World are Magi who have come seeking many years too soon. But long after we are gone, it is likely enough that some Star will here incline over the straw which is already strewn.

A HASTY HAND-BOOK.

I can't keep up this '*mot juste*' style, if this jotting is to catch the *Berengaria* which pulls out with the English post early to-morrow. So here is a hasty hand-book to our doings. If Toc H takes root here, it must be primarily American, with British appendages. Our job is to find leadership for it ; and no amount of after-dinner speeches or broadcasting will do this. My side of things (which is mainly such episodes as these, together with innumerable newspaper sleuths, male and female) is therefore only ancillary to Pat's, who is trenching his ground far deeper. Our tasks are thus assorted to our aptitudes.

On the advice of the Committee of Welcome we are making no appeal for funds. New York is rather tired of being dunned by mendicant friars of all sorts, and to add now to their number is the kind of pin-prick that festers, and so spoils an honest hand-shake between the nations. On the other hand we are hoping to leave behind us two areas of friendship : the outer circle subscribers to the JOURNAL, which is the best way of getting Toc H known and assimilated, and a small inner group of younger people for the most part, whose minds are thoroughly made up that they will seek the will of God concerning the formation of Toc H in the U.S.A. For such a beginning New York is the most difficult centre conceivable. Its ebb and flow are such that homeliness and good humour are rare attributes indeed, and the clamour of all things is so deafening that a thing must shout and push to find its way at all. In Philadelphia, however, where we spent the last week-end, a very different atmosphere is provided, and there a group of men have been given us who are of the very calibre that Toc H most needs. Several of them moreover are young married men, whose wives would, in themselves, form an ideal group of Toc Emmas. This whole body, about twenty-five in number, are meeting again next Sunday and taking matters with a real quietude and earnestness, from which, if God so pleases, a true beginning may well come.

Meanwhile, both Pat and I feel somewhat in the condition of the draft horses whose task was once so delightfully described in an essay of Scott Holland's.

There, at some wayside junction, stands a heavy railway truck to be moved from one line to another. To an engine the work would be child's play, but to the heaviest horses in harness the first strain of motion is one which demands unflinching endurance, and the poor horse looks round to see the vast encumbrance which its foolish master expects it to set going. Once, however, the first great strain and struggle is over, the erst immobile truck becomes a living thing, moving with ease upon an even keel, and all that remains is for the horse to see that it does not stumble as it precedes the great on-coming consequence behind it. So it must ever be with those who are harnessed to great causes and if it be God's will that Toc H in the U.S.A. should come to life, then Pat, and I will need to be unhitched forthwith and sent to browse in Canada.

TUBBY.

NOTE.—We have received the typewritten programme of the Pilgrims' stay in and around Boston, Mass. ; it bears the comment "*Don't wonder at no letters !*" in Tubby's handwriting. In the fortnight between March 7 and March 20 Tubby is shown as speaking 29 times and Pat 20 times. Tubby preaches every noon for eight days at St. Paul's Cathedral, Boston, and Pat similarly at Providence ; Tubby tackles audiences of students, young people and clergy at Boston, Providence, Harvard, Worcester and Cambridge, and Pat addresses many schools and gives "*stereopticon talks*" (short for "*lantern lectures*"). The Fourth Point of the Compass seems to be in danger !—ED.

JOBMASTERY—VI. TACKLING THE BOY

PADRE C. W. HUTCHINSON's address to the *Birthday Conference on December 14*. This is the final instalment of the report of that conference.

"**T**ACKLING the Boy" is my subject, by which I take it we mean the boy between the age of 14 and 16, the boy adolescent, the boy in the thrilling process of growing up, the boy in the pre-Toc H stage, the younger brother. There is no time to make more than a few preliminary remarks about him. Remember in the first place that he is growing up, and this fact of growing up is the very devil and all, a most difficult, dangerous, and yet most beautiful process.

First a word or two about the physical side. The boy in the process of growing up is subject to a severe physical strain up to a certain point ; in fact the years that precede adolescence are, as it were, a kind of vigil or preparation, a period of placid growth and development all along one front. But when the process of adolescence approaches its crisis then that development is largely by fits and starts. I have not time to go into that very much, but if you read a book like Stanley Hall's book, you will find that this is the case. This spasmodic development of course means lack of equilibrium ; the boy is gawky, he cannot manage his legs and arms, and we shall find that physical difficulty affecting, quite naturally, his spiritual development.

There are four things about the growing boy I should like to emphasize. While the boy's body is going "*through the hoop*" in that particular kind of way, we are not to expect to find him a very stable person. We are not to be surprised or impatient when he presents us with all kinds of difficulties, nor be

astonished at the ebb and flow of his enthusiasms. He is unstable and liable to change, and for the first time perhaps there develops in him the spirit of rebellion, a questioning of all established things. It is not enough that he has always done certain things; he wants to know why he should do them. In this and in other directions I would ask you to look back and remember what you were like when you were growing up, how you felt about things, how you rebelled against things, how you grew tired of things and threw things down and started new things and grew tired again in turn. So many people fail to, remember their own youth, in fact I do not think it can be done without very real and very deliberate effort. We all know what it is when grown-up people, perverse and rather heavy, lecture the young boy—"I remember when I was a young man . . ." and it always confirms the boy's conviction (if he was not sure already) that that particular person in his youth must have been quite intolerable.

FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF A GROWING BOY.

First of all, then, there is a feeling of rebellion, a desire to do things differently, a SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE. Life seems suddenly to have immense scope and range, the boy's experience becomes so much wider that old things, old games, old acquaintances, in many cases simply won't do. Growing up for me is associated with one particular instance. I remember in my old home, when growing up, coming home at night (and winter nights are particularly impressed on my memory), hurrying through my tea, very preoccupied, answering very shortly and thoughtlessly the affectionate questions of my mother, full of my own thoughts and the things I was going to do—exciting, ridiculous things—snatching up my cap and running out, just throwing back a careless reply to the question, "Where are you going?" hurrying down the steps, and looking back and seeing my mother's face at the window. Where was I going? Merely going *out*. This everlasting adventure, going *out* from the things we know to the things we do not know: I had to go out. This restlessness, this spirit of adventure, is a source of endless worry and trouble to the club worker and the schoolmaster—unless they are prepared for it. Then, too, remember that the growing boy has an exaggerated SENSE OF INDIVIDUALITY, he feels definitely, passionately, that he is different from everybody else; things strike him differently, and altogether he is full of the sense of his own personality, full also of the need to express it, and express it he does, often in odd ways. Sometimes the ridiculous things boys do are just exaggerated expressions of their individuality. They must get noticed, they must get that individuality, which they feel so passionately, saluted in some way; they have got to make you realise that they are people to be reckoned with. And then there is an awakening of a SENSE OF BEAUTY. I speak perhaps rather of the finer types, but it is true of all growing boys—and girls too for that matter—a sense that the world is much more wonderful and beautiful than they imagined, vague thoughts that cannot find expression in them, and often never will.

And then comes that new wonder in their relationship with their friends—that wonderful NEW GENIUS FOR FRIENDSHIP. Up to a point the growing boy takes his friends much as he finds them. They are good enough to play with,

to roam with, but when the crisis comes upon the boy he is wont to see his friends in a new light. Suddenly he finds that the boy who was his school boy friend for many months or a year, suddenly becomes a being remote from him, of whom he is almost afraid, and to whom very often he is too shy to speak. That is another characteristic I am perfectly certain, if you search your memory, you will find to be absolutely true, a new sense of awe and wonder about relationship. It must be remembered, too, that the boy has a great nose for humbug of any sort or kind. As a child he takes things for granted, and up to a point he takes the grown-up world around him for granted ; he cannot improve it, although he may think the conduct of grown-up people perfectly ridiculous. It does not make him angry but critical and rather patronising. But when the boy grows up he is perfectly furious about it, he becomes genuinely angry with the tiresomeness of grown-up people, and cannot understand why, with all the professions grown-up people make, the world is still the place he finds it to be. The challenge of youth to the adult Christian is, I think—" If you really believe all you profess, why in God's name have you not made the world a better place than I find it to be ? "

How to HELP BOYS.

One further thing about the growing boy, and especially the boy of the working class—what kind of life does the world of to-day offer him at that particular stage of his life which I have tried to describe ? He is restless, he cannot maintain his equilibrium in his new and changing conditions. He leaves school at 14 and goes, very likely, into some great factory, where his life is determined by the factory bell in the morning and the release of the factory hooter at night. Put down to some repetition task of a very soulless character just at a time when he has a sense of life being a great adventure, of a world where all things hoped for might be possible, the vision gradually contracts, and he finds life offers him very little in the way of scope. Just when that sense of individuality is such a painfully passionate thing to him, he loses the personal interest and affection of his schoolmaster and he becomes a mere cog in the wheel of the factory system. Just when his sense of beauty and his appetite for knowledge are awakening, the hideous guillotine of the industrial system comes down and cuts it all off from him. I don't think I have exaggerated the picture of the growing boy in the great industrial towns. For those who care for boys, and to those whose work lies among boys let me say, with what uplift of heart I see great accession to the ranks of those who serve boys coming from Toc H. I can think of men before the War, 15 or 20 years ago, working single-handed in the slums of the great towns, pouring out their lives in the service of boys, single-handed, with no equipment and no money, giving everything for the young life. Indeed, the scene has changed ! It is an odd thing, too, how much one can achieve without help and without money. I have a vision of a place in South London where a great saint of God worked and died at his post. Round the corner was a boy's club with a wonderful billiard table, beautiful shower-baths, everything but boys. Not very far away was another club in an old

stable, where the boards were so worn away that one had to be careful when one trod, with nothing but a broken billiard table and balls cracked right across, and this one man who loved the boys and loved to serve them: to that club all the boys of the district came. It might be some encouragement to some of you who are taking up boys' work for the first time in your lives to know that it does not really matter that you should be the kind of person described in the advertisement columns of *The Church Times* as being—"Good with boys." We know people of that kind, and very tiresome they are. It does not matter if you can't play football or ping-pong; it does not matter a penny if you can't do any of those things, provided you have got the right spirit, are interested in boys and love them. I know many men who have none of those special qualifications who have done splendid work amongst boys. I know a man whose only qualifications were a collection of butterflies and an interest in physiology, but his rooms were always full of boys and he is to-day surrounded (and this is the great test) by a huge phalanx of men, his old boys grown up.

FOOD FOR THE MIND.

There is one more thing I should like to speak about and that is the Schools. There are many clubs and other organisations which are run in towns by people who neglect the great factor of the school, who do not try to work in with those devoted men who have the handling of boys throughout the day. In some quarters there is a kind of feeling that there is some peculiar difficulty about the elementary school master, and that they will not be welcomed in the elementary schools. Nothing could be more foolish. Any scout master or club manager who makes friends with the headmaster of the local school and his staff will have done the best day's work he has ever done in his life. Further, you have to encourage your boys to attend evening classes, and to make the most of the handicap of their early school-leaving age, and to see that no amusement clashes with their evening class. It is up to us to remember we have got to offer the boys the fullest possible chance of a full life, and to encourage them to avail themselves of the facilities offered by the London County Council Education Authority, and work in with the head teachers of the evening departments, and also see that our own work amongst boys has an educational side to it. Our scouting, our club work must have an educational side to it. We should have a really good club library at the disposal of our boys; we should be the kind of people who can provoke the kind of discussion which will carry you a long way round the club fire. It is tremendously important that you should make boys think and make boys talk.

I know of one club where if you walked into the warden's room any evening you would find it full of working boys of various ages, and if you went into that room twenty minutes after you would find them plunged into a deep intellectual discussion. Don't imagine boys are interested only in billiards and draughts and things like that.

THE BOYS' LEADER.

Lastly, remember this, that the needs of the growing boy, those needs which I have made reference to, and those characteristics of the boy while growing up,

which often make him shy off just at the critical time, must never be suffered to shake your faith in him for a moment. There is only One who can satisfy all the needs of the growing boy and that is our Lord Jesus Christ. He alone can satisfy those needs ; He alone understands the restlessness of the boy. It is only the great adventure, the greatest adventure of all that can really satisfy the boy's desire for service and for sacrifice, and, by a providential mercy of God, it is just as the boy is ready and greedy for experience and wants to pluck every fruit from the tree of knowledge, that there is also a tremendous desire for affection. Just as he is ready and greedy for experience, so is he just as ready to sacrifice all for loyalty, for love. It is perfectly easy for you and me to win the boy's affection. It is part of the boy's make-up to give affection, to give hero-worship to any adult thing (not obviously base) that comes his way, and it is our business to remember that we have got to use in these matters the very greatest discipline. The man who attempts to do boys' work sentimentally, without discipline, will do more harm than good. If we want to win the boy for ourselves we have got to receive thankfully and with discipline and restraint the affection the boy offers us, fully understanding what it means and not having our heads turned by it, and presenting to the boy, and leading the boy on, to Him Who alone can satisfy the hungry desires of his heart, the Good Shepherd, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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In the DISCUSSION which followed SIR ALFRED PICKFORD (Chief Commissioner for Overseas Scouts) said that there was a difficulty in his mind with regard to evening classes, and he raised it because the attitude of a great and growing society like Toc H to this matter was bound to be important in the future. He found it hard to believe that it could be sound for a boy who had to work all day to sit down in the evening to further education and go to bed physically and mentally over-tired. Speaking as a man who had been an employer of labour, he asked whether this demand on boys was not a sign of industrial selfishness. If extra work after leaving school was necessary to a boy's education, ought it not to be provided in the day-time and out of ordinary working hours ? He took the loud cheers of the Conference as an answer in the affirmative.

VAL BELL (Mark III Branch) related his experience as headmaster of a Continuation School, and gave instances of the awakening sense of beauty in boys and girls.

Time was up and the Chairman closed the Conference. COL. P. MURRAY (Cheltenham Branch) has since sent notes to the Editor of points he would have made, had time permitted. He says that Toc H has four members on the rota committee of the Juvenile Employment Agency (under the Cheltenham Education Authority), and that each of these members has a district in which boys leaving school each term are tackled. Whenever possible a round-table conference is held of the Juvenile Employment officer, the Toc H member, the boy himself, his parents and his schoolmaster. Although this system has been working but a few months they are now gaining the confidence of the parents on one side, the boy in the middle and the employer on the other. It would have gladdened the heart of every one at the Birthday could they have heard the Labour chairman (a grey-beard of 70) at a recent men's meeting, thumping the table to the accompaniment of "Toc H ! that's the stuff, boys ! I am on the Employment rota committee, and I am going to back Toc H all I am worth." Could not the L.W.H. produce similar help on the side of the girls, whose needs are even greater ?

THE USE OF THE LAMP AND OF THE RUSHLIGHT

The forms set out below were authorised by the Guard of the Lamp on October 11, 1923, for issue to all Branches of the Scout Movement. They may be used in their entirety or shortened or modified for local use at the discretion of the Branch, so long as the general outline is preserved.

The words which precede the Silence constitute an act of Remembrance, those after it of Self-dedication: these two ideas belonging to the Light should always be kept in view.

1.—THE CEREMONY OF "LIGHT"

At the appropriate time the Chairman gives the signal by saying the word "Light!"—all present rise and remain standing. The Chairman (or the Lamplighter appointed) lights the Light with a taper. At the same time all other lights in the room are put out.

CHAIRMAN : With proud thanksgiving let us remember our dear Brethren.

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

THE BRANCH : We will remember them.

ONE MINUTE'S SILENCE

CHAIRMAN : Let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works.

THE BRANCH : Let us go up to heaven.

The Chairman lights the lamp.



THE RETURN OF THE RUSHLIGHT.

AN article in Vol. I, No. 1 of the JOURNAL (June, 1922) asked the question "Why not a Lamp?" As no one came forward to show just cause or impediment, the Lamp of Maintenance took its place among us as the visible symbol of the idea of Toc H. A year later (June 5, 1923) the Central Executive appointed a special sub-committee of three to be the "Guard of the Lamp." This small body (consisting originally of John Hollis, Tubby and myself, and at present of Padre Fleming, Ronnie Grant and myself) has had to deal with many questions connected with the granting or withholding, maintaining or withdrawing of Lamps. For some time it has had in view the bestowal of some symbol on the Groups of Toc H, for it has realised (as, no doubt, all members have done) how much a Lamp means to a Branch. It is the very "charter" of the Branch's existence, and the centre round which members meet. Where the Lamp is, there is the idea of the Branch; whenever a man's eyes rest upon it, he thinks of the family spirit at work in the lives of his fellow-members. It is like the "gonfalon," the flag set up in old-time battle, round which men rallied as by instinct and to keep which inviolate they risked their lives. "Very childish and unreasonable and outworn in our enlightened century," say some people, no doubt, but such critics are altogether too grown-up for most of us. Long after these are gone and forgotten, the great mass of mankind will still be taking off its hat to the symbols of great ideas (whether the cross be by the wayside or on the bunting of a flag) and sometimes find itself stirred by them to tears. Most of us are made like that, and (with respect to the hardy minds who have no use for symbolism) would find it a dull world indeed if all visible signs were done away.

Now, the fact that many of our Groups already observe the *Silence* which belongs to the ceremony of "Light," and in some cases even find it worth while to stand in darkness or to make shift with a candle, surely means that they miss the simple symbol of light in their midst. The granting of the regular Lamp of Maintenance, the sign of Branch status, to a Group would clearly be out of the question. The Guard therefore proposed to the Central Executive last November that a smaller and simpler Lamp be granted to Groups, but this proposal was rejected—rightly, we now think—as being a sort of "debasement of the coinage." Then the memory of something seen long ago took me, one recent Sunday afternoon, to the fascinating metal-work department of the Victoria and Albert Museum. The result of this visit was laid before the Executive at its March meeting, and was accepted; it lies before the whole membership now. The drawing represents an old English *Rushlight Holder*, such as was in nightly use by our forebears from the middle ages up to the beginning of the last century—with the distinctive addition of the Double Cross of Ypres. As everyone can see, the form is primitive in its simplicity—a pair of pincers held upright by one "leg," while the other "leg" stands out at right angles and is weighted (in old examples with a rough knob or spiral, and in ours with the Ypres cross) so as to keep the pincers firmly closed upon the rushlight.

Let me quote from the Guard's memorandum to the Executive, and then make one or two comments :—

The design put forward has the following points in its favour :—

- (a) It has (like the Lamp of Maintenance) "an historical background."
- (b) It is distinctive. Once a common design, it is never repeated nowadays, and is not, therefore, commonplace.
- (c) As the whole emphasis, when the light is burning, would be thrown upon the Ypres Cross, it is significant and beautiful.
- (d) It is simple and convenient, and, if provided with a plain wooden box, easily portable (a point of importance to Groups with no meeting-place of their own). A few inches of *any ordinary taper* would be used for the light.
- (e) It is moderate in price. (Here followed the maker's estimate).

The Guard of the Lamp recommend that this symbol be :—

- (a) Given to all Groups without any formal ceremony of bestowal. If desired, it might be presented by some private donor and bear a Memorial inscription.
- (b) Entrusted to the care of the Secretary or Padre of the Group, who should acknowledge its receipt and deliver it back to the Guard of the Lamp if requested.
- (c) Held by a Group until it attains Branch status, when the Rushlight would be handed back in exchange for a Lamp of Maintenance.
- (d) Known as the "Rushlight"—a name which in itself marks its inferiority to a Lamp of Maintenance.

Now a little about the "historical background," which is a matter that only "Futurists" will think unimportant. We have all learnt to picture the Lamp of Maintenance against its "background"—the rough terra-cotta lamp in the hand of the Roman host or servant as he feels his way down the cellar steps to fetch up a bottle of wine for a guest, and then the same lamp, cast in bronze and with the sacred monogram added to the tall handle, lighting up the catacomb where the persecuted infant Church kneels at prayer. The history of the rushlight remains domestic to the end; it has a homely and less honoured touch which will not be out of place in its use by Groups of Toc H. For it is to be, at the same time, the symbol of a lesser status in our family, and the sign that Toc H can take the commonest things in life and use them with deep meaning. You will need to see a different set of pictures as its "background." First, the hall of a medieval castle, thick with smoke (for there is no chimney), foul with six inches of stinking rushes on the floor (for there is no carpet, and no vacuum sweeper), and dark as soon as the shutters are closed (for there is no glass in the windows)—these are the "good old days" of the romantic novel. There may be torches at the "high table" for knight and lady to eat by, but far "below the salt," where the men-at-arms are scrambling with unwashen fists in the common bowl of stew (for there are neither forks nor plates), someone has jabbed an iron spike into the heavy table to hold aloft a *rush* dipped in bacon fat and burning at the tip. The little circle of light it throws in that tumultuous hall is like the steady life of some man, maybe, who eats there among the rest: "so shines a good deed in a naughty world."

It is pleasant, however, to turn from that "romantic" picture to the two

books in our prose literature which are most fragrant of the English country. In the first, Master Isaak Walton brings his friend, Venator, at sunset of his third day's fishing, to the "Thatched House" at Hoddesdon. He has taught Venator that afternoon how to catch a seventeen-inch chub "by dapping with a grasshop," has sat out a spring shower with him in talk under a "honeysuckle hedge," and both fishermen are well content. They meet Peter and Coridon at the inn, and call for barley wine, while Master Isaak hands a trout, that "will fill six reasonable bellies," to his hostess for cooking. Supper comes and ends, and Venator proposes a singing match. "'Tis a match," exclaims old Isaak, "Let's e'en say grace, and turn to the fire, drink the other cup to whet our whistles, and sing away all sad thoughts:—

Oh, the sweet contentment the countryman doth find! . . ."

So the pleasant hour passes among these "good anglers and meek, quiet-spirited men." The tall *rush-light* in its iron holder, which their hostess has set upon the table, is burning to the last inch—"and now let's every one go to bed, that we may rise early . . . here are fresh sheets that smell of lavender; and I am sure we cannot expect better meat or better usage in any place. . . Good night to everybody!"

That was in 1653. On November 1, 1775, a beloved country parson sits in his study in a Hampshire vicarage writing to a friend. This is how Gilbert White opens his letter to the Honourable Daines Barrington: "Dear Sir,—I shall make no apology for troubling you with the detail of a very simple piece of domestic economy, being satisfied that you think nothing beneath your attention that tends to utility; the matter alluded to is the use of *rushes* instead of candles, which I am well aware prevails in many districts besides this. . . . Little farmers use *rushes* much in the short days, both morning and evening, in the dairy and kitchen; but the very poor, who are always the worst economists, and therefore must continue very poor, buy an halfpenny candle every evening, which, in their blowing open rooms, does not burn more than two hours. Thus have they only two hours' light for their money instead of eleven." "These *rushes* give a good clear light," but from the care with which the writer describes their use—how they are gathered by "decayed labourers, women and children," peeled and bleached, laid in the dew and dried in the sun, and dipped in scalding fat—it looks as if the "halfpenny candle" were already winning the night, and the *rushlight* about to become a curiosity of the past. If any Toc H member wants to make a good one he should follow the directions in Letter XXVI of the *Natural History of Selborne*—and if he does not know that sweet book already, perhaps the *rushlight* may introduce him to a lifelong friend. Most Groups will doubtless be content to use the modern form, the taper they can buy at any grocer's counter.

So there it is, this thing which has played its humble part during so many centuries in the lives of our folk—the light by which they have supped and sung, courted and quarrelled, read their Bibles and said their bedside prayers, the light by which children have come into the world and old people passed out of it. May it not play its part again in the life of our growing family? B. B.

A NORTHERN PIONEER

ONLY a few of our members have yet discovered a very fine piece of Toc H service which has been quietly proceeding for some time in Northumberland. DR. J. B. McDougall (a member of our Central Executive) is responsible for it, and, at the Editor's request, contributes the article which follows. LES ABDY (recently appointed Assistant Secretary to MacDougall for Toc H in the North-Eastern Area) adds a note at the end. In a letter he writes : " Personally, I could not possibly describe adequately the really wonderful thing which during the past eighteen months has been taking shape . . . Wooley is a place to visit when you are feeling sore and wondering whether Toc H is worth while—a state into which some members seem to find it easy to fall."

THE experiment known as the Wooley Settlement has become so intimately associated with the aims and ideals of Toc H that it may prove of some interest to members if the broad outline of the work were reviewed in this JOURNAL.

Although the settlement at Wooley is as yet a child in years it has matured sufficiently to enable one to summarise its effect on the people for whom it has been designed.

Briefly, Wooley is a remote country district in the wilds of Northumberland, some five miles from the historic Hexham. The County Council of Northumberland decided some years ago that the site on which the Sanatorium and Settlement now stand was in every way ideal for the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis and its complications. In those days the Council thought in terms of medicine, but they little dreamt that of all the complications of pulmonary tuberculosis by far the most important was the economic complication, and still less did they imagine that the site at Wooley would lend itself to a partial solution, at least, of this very difficulty. The fact is that at Wooley there is a large Sanatorium of which I am fortunate enough to be Medical Superintendent. Our results on the purely medical side are good, but no better than at many other Sanatoria, where the general experience is, that so long as patients suffering from consumption remain under ideal open-air conditions and lead a disciplined life under medical supervision, a great majority keep well, but when they leave the Sanatorium and return to their former home surroundings and previous occupations, far too many relapse. It is not the fault of the Sanatorium that they relapse any more than it is the fault of our Universities that a large number of post-graduates ultimately fall far short of the ideals instilled into them by their *alma mater*. So far as the bulk of consumptives are concerned there is a desperate need for treatment in the open-air to be a perpetual affair, but, for obvious reasons, such treatment cannot be continued indefinitely in all cases. A consumptive miner with a wife and four or five children and a working capacity of some 60 or 70 per cent. is a problem indeed. He cannot remain idle for all time ; he is not fit to compete with his 100 per cent. fellow workmen in the pit. *Quid faciat?* His economic plight is something which must be considered. It does not help him much to tell him that the medical examination of his chest records such-and-such, and that the X-ray photo shows this-and-that. He wants to know how he is to earn a livelihood. This middle-stage case

of pulmonary tuberculosis will live for years if given a certain amount of economic shelter and human sympathy ; he will perish in a few months if sent home with nothing but a medical report.

A TOC H EXPERIMENT.

At Wooley we have made a game attempt to deal with this peculiarly difficult problem in Toc H fashion, and viewing the experiment after some eighteen months of sustained effort one is forced to the conclusion that there has been a fair amount accomplished. The Settlement is a purely voluntary institution, running alongside the Sanatorium proper. It is financed entirely by voluntary funds. The object is to set up industrial concerns of a profitable nature and to employ male and female ex-patients at a reasonable wage and to keep them under constant medical supervision. Their wages and maintenance are paid out of the profits of the industries, and in this way the ratepayers of the County are not burdened in the slightest. All subscriptions towards the Settlement from private subscribers are spent in extension of the industry, for it follows that the larger the scope of the industry the larger will be the number of settlers. There is already—after eighteen months' hard work—a pig farm with nearly a hundred head of animals ; the fur and wool farm is now one of the largest in England ; the canteen or stores department has a turnover of over £1,000 per annum, and the monthly magazine (*The Temps*, started in December, 1923, with 50 copies) has now a circulation of nearly 2,000 per month throughout the country. At an early date *The Temps* will be the official Health Magazine of the County and the circulation should at least be doubled. On the purely Social side there are concerts given by patients and by the domestic staff of the Sanatorium, the proceeds from which have been well over £50 since December last. In the different villages and townships throughout the County ex-patients are organised and act as agents for the distribution of *The Temps*, and, in addition, organise social events in aid of the work of the Settlement.

During exercise hours the patients assist in a multitude of ways in building up this pioneer work. At the moment of writing they have just completed the first hostel, a building with eight bedrooms, a common room, bathroom, &c., and there are now three permanent settlers or ex-patients in residence, earning wages from 12s. to £1 per week with everything found. A fourth will be admitted in a month or so and by the end of the present year it is hoped to have at least eight permanent settlers in residence.

Readers must be wondering where Toc H is concerned in this venture. Officially, Toc H is not concerned in it at all, but I do not hesitate to say that if Toc H doctrines had not permeated the entire work, nothing would have been accomplished. The patients are taught from the moment they enter that provided they are medically fit for the little tasks allotted to them, they are expected to contribute to the Settlement work as a Service to their brothers and sisters and maybe for themselves. All cannot be settlers. They know that ; but they also realise that by helping in the work they are pioneers in a magnificent piece of social reconstruction.

There is no official Toc H branch or group at Wooley, but Tubby, Fleming,

Lodge and Abdy have been here and met the boys. Rough lads, some of these same boys, but never have I had one who has not been prompted by the spirit of service when the tremendous issue has been set before him. The Gateshead Branch inundates us sometimes and C. K. Moore's help and advice in many things have been invaluable. Newcastle Branch members are also frequently about—so that we have a direct touch with our nearest neighbours. Padre Davies from Gateshead has visited us too and has spoken the Word. Clearly the Wooley Settlement has had its birth in Toc H ideals. Abundant capital is necessary for its successful development of usefulness, but so long as these ideals are kept before the patients and our settlers and so long as the spirit of service is so ungrudgingly given by all of us here, then so long will the work grow and extend in the scope of its utility.

J. B. McD.

NOTE : " FOR NECESSARY ACTION, PLEASE."

There is still a very important point arising out of the present position at Wooley which might well be written of. It is that of regarding the work in connection with the Settlement Scheme as a piece of preliminary training for prospective members of Toc H. It is in the pioneer work being given to the Settlement that many men find their first joy of Service. Whilst receiving Sanatorium treatment they learn, perhaps for the first time in their lives, their dependance on and their duty of service to their fellow men. Without the existence of an official Toc H group or branch, they capture the identical atmosphere which permeates Toc H throughout—that cheery expenditure of effort in the common task and the giving and taking of all the benefits of equality in comradeship of the true type. When the time comes for them to return to their old environment and occupation, one can easily imagine them experiencing a sense of loss in the matter of a happy relationship with their fellows. The big thing they need is a ready means to find fellowship and service similar to that which they experienced at Wooley. If the ideals of Toc H, fostered in them during their stay at the Sanatorium, are to ripen and grow, then Toc H must endeavour to provide branches and groups in the towns and villages to which these men return. The existing branches and groups in the district must get busy in this direction. The opportunity is too good to miss as a piece of Toc H missionary work—and one feels tempted to say (after a visit to Wooley) that the work of permanently linking up these ex-patients with our movement in their own districts now becomes a duty, following on the splendid lead being given by Dr. McDougall. Innumerable difficulties will confront first attempts; the remoter districts from whence some of the patients come will have to remain untouched for a time; and the problem of group forming without any wide class representation will have to be attempted.

Toc H, however, being a Youth movement, can happily draw on the deep wells of optimism and faith in the possibility of things, without which we dare not ask "that with gallant and high-hearted happiness we may work for God's kingdom in the hearts of men."

L. A.

TWO NEW MARKS AND A HOSTEL

THE gap between Woolwich (Mark XV) and Bermondsey (numbered XXII for old time's sake in an old battalion) is being bridged. The first two spans of the bridge have been built at Swindon and near Southampton, and each calls for some comment.

MARK XVI.

"Toc H Hostel, Redville, Swindon," disappears from the list of Houses this month, and Mark XVI takes its place. This is no mere change of name; it represents a real difference of character. When the conspiracy between H.Q. and our School Correspondent at Marlborough, splendidly abetted by the Master of Marlborough and schoolmasters of Swindon, had issued in the successful Marlborough-Swindon Camp of 1922, those concerned looked round for means to make permanent a partnership thus delightfully begun. The Redville house was bought and its stables remodelled into a boys' club, where the Swindon campers could carry on all the year round, and where Marlborough boys, coming over every Saturday night in term time, could maintain their fellowship with them. The house itself became a hostel in which apprentices in the G.W.R. works and others lived. The boys' club has flourished exceedingly; it has nearly 150 members at the present time, and is already outgrowing its premises. The hostel was less fortunate. Excellently run as a boarding-house, it failed in many ways to achieve the "family spirit." Half the hostellers were not even members of Toc H, and there was no clear recognition of the fundamental principle of Toc H, of which a chapel at the heart of a true Mark, is the constant reminder. So long as Swindon thus missed the mark, the Central Executive refused to make it one. But now a new chapter has opened. Various people from H.Q. have visited the House and Branch to help in the reconstruction, and Padre Brochner's first job, on joining the staff, has been to live in the house for several weeks to support those who are carrying it through. A chapel is being set up, and a true club-room made, so that the Swindon Branch (up to now almost completely detached from the House, and working at great disadvantage) will have a home and a centre for its operations. Such hostellers as prefer less exacting lodgings have moved and will be replaced by working Toc H members. All this has not been arrived at easily or quickly; without the steadiness and sacrifice of some branch members it would not have been possible. We can all congratulate Swindon House and Branch on having a double series of jobs before them—for the town is both a busy industrial place and the natural centre of a big agricultural area.

MARK XVII.

Mark V, as many holiday-makers from other branches know, is a very tempting place. The high trees of the grounds and the wooded common put crowded workaday Southampton far out of sight, and there might well be an inclination among the dwellers in Mark V to remain in their garden "above the battle." But already the House has sent out its men to found and man two working colonies. The first, "Talbot House" for sea-going boys, has already been mentioned in these pages (*see March JOURNAL, p. 68*), and the cheery family of boys there is a fact you can't escape. The second, though primarily concerned with work among boys, is not a hostel for them, but a regular Mark of Toc H. Cross the ferry to Woolston, and climb the steep hill towards Itchen, and you will come upon the gables of the Old Parsonage among the trees of its garden. In itself it is surely the most charming home of any in Toc H. They say that it was dedicated by the saintly Lancelot Andrewes when he was Bishop of Winchester (*i.e.* between 1618 and 1626). A former tenant had the fancy to paint a name, after the Pilgrim's Progress manner, over every door, and these fit the humour of Toc H to

the life. The pilasters of the entrance are called *Grace* and *Truth*; and the next step brings you, right-handed, to *Cheer*; and, on the left, to *Sincerity*. Very properly Toc H eats under the sign of *Cheer*, and meets in *Sincerity*! On the first floor is *Joy* and, passing through the doorway called *Fellowship*, the pilgrim comes to his bed in *Loyalty* or *Peace* or *Love*. He climbs some exceedingly steep and narrow stairs to the difficult cardinal virtues of *Faith* and *Hope* and *Charity*. From the upper windows he looks out on the masts and lights of the port.

The first business of Mark XVII is concerned with Sea Scouts and Rovers, of which the place has long been a headquarters. Three of their sea-boats lie, for the winter, in the garden, and a "guild room," built on to the House, is a memorial to Scouts who died in the War, and the meeting place of their successors. It is a pleasant room, full of the instruments of the scouts' trade and of the sea, and the store below it contains sails and oars and the larger gear. But scouting is not to be the only business of Mark XVII. At its door lies Woolston, a busy waterside place, with poor streets and much casual labour. If you will step into a certain mission hall in Woolston of a Saturday night, you will find it crammed with men (smoking a penetrating shag) and women and children—and, across the footlights, the Woolston Group of Toc H. The concert ends with an impromptu sketch, with "gags" and costumes of the most surprising variety. A man plays many parts in his time—look at the Church Army captain with a Toc H tie, acting as M.C., and the local I.C.F. agent, dressed as a bookie, making uproarious fun on the stage racecourse. It is a good penn'orth, which admits, as this one does, to the family spirit of Toc H.

B. B.

HAILEYBURY HOUSE.

The coming of it was thuswise:—About thirty years ago Haileybury College, successor to that famous East India Company's College which produced Lawrence and many others who may well be included in the Roll of Elder Brethren, founded a boys' club in Stepney, to be run under the auspices of what is called the Haileybury Guild. The writer has a vivid recollection, as a small boy, of forming one of the guard of honour from the school at the opening by a Royal Princess. This club still flourishes, after giving five of its club managers, and many hundreds of its boys, to the country during the years of war. As was inevitable by this very sacrifice, the difficulty of maintaining the club since 1918 has been a continual anxiety to all concerned. Not the least of these anxieties has been the maintenance of the residential quarters, provided when workers were many. The Haileybury Guild has now appealed to Toc H to find some means of shouldering this burden and, in answer to this, we have undertaken to fill the House, and so to relieve the Guild of financial worry and to supply additional workers for the club. The House becomes the headquarters of the Stepney Group, and as prefects from the College will be visiting it frequently, great opportunities present themselves for interesting the school in Toc H.

R. C. G.

THE FIRST TYNESIDE CONFERENCE

ANOTHER stage seems to be approaching—quietly, naturally, and as the result of steady growth—in the organisation of Toc H. This is the Federation of branches and groups in a given district. The recent Federation, under a central committee with "Uncle" Harry Ellison as full-time honorary secretary, of 14 branches and 15 groups, is already making an immense difference to Toc H work in the peculiarly difficult area of London. And the same need has been felt and is now being met on Tyneside. H.Q. has supplied the full-time secretary in the person of Les Abdy, and the first meeting to consider the proposed Federation was held at Newcastle in February. J. B. McDougall was in the chair, and Newcastle, Gateshead, South

Shields, Durham, Felling and Tantobie (which have an aggregate strength of about 200 members and probationers) sent one to three representatives each.

The proceedings may be briefly summarised as follows :—

1. It was decided to call the body the "Tyneside Conference," and to apply to H.Q. for sanction to be a Federation as soon as this stage seemed to have been reached.

2. The area, after much discussion, was defined ; the Conference to be open to all Northern branches and groups which applied to join it.

3. The objects : (i) To raise money for the chaplaincy fund ; (ii) To be the consultative meeting of representatives of branches and groups ; (iii) To be the executive of an annual rally for all branches and groups in the area ; (iv) To incorporate the "Main Resolution."

4. The Conference to meet at Newcastle on the first Tuesday evening in February, April, June, August, October and December. J. B. McDougall was appointed Chairman and C. K. Moore (Gateshead) Secretary, for one year.

5. Secretaries of branches and groups were asked to get into touch with each other and to arrange an exchange of visits among themselves.

6. After Les Abdy had been introduced by the Chairman and had said his say, Jobmasters were called upon to report. Gateshead reported on Christmas entertainments for children, J. O. C., Rota Committee, Scouts, and choral society work ; Durham on their attack on secondary schools ; Newcastle on work for Borstal and probation boys ; South Shields on service to the blind, seamen on the Tyne, the League of Nations, &c. ; Felling on sports clubs for boys, after-care of tuberculous cases and help to the Nursing Association. The Chairman pointed out that the moral of these reports was that there were specialist and non-specialist jobs between which Jobmasters must take care to divide their members. Padre Pestle (Durham) closed the meeting at 10.15 p.m. with prayers.



TOC H SCOUTING AND ROVER NOTES

It is hoped to make this section a regular feature of the JOURNAL. The design, shown herewith, for a Toc H Rover sign was suggested by Leicester and has been approved by the Boy Scout Association and by Toc H Central Executive.

MANY of us who are interested in the Scout Movement, and in Scout work among boys, are tremendously keen, but we are also at times painfully conscious of our lack of knowledge and experience. To those who feel like that the following details of Training Courses for Rovers should be comforting :—

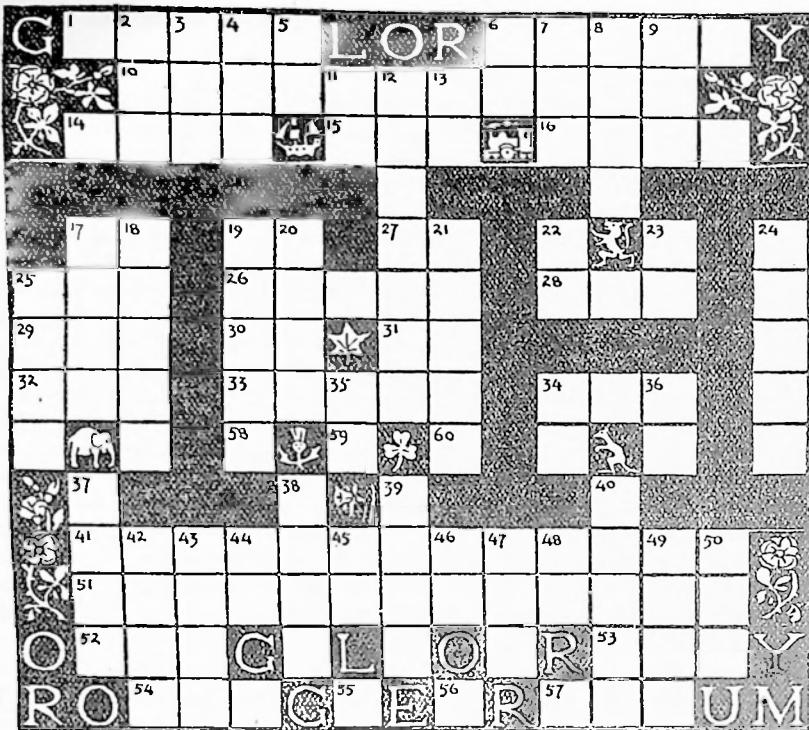
1. A course will be held at All Hallows on Monday evenings from 8 to 9.30 p.m., commencing on April 27, and lasting for ten weeks (Whit-Monday being omitted). This course will only be possible for those who live in or near London.

2. A Gilwell Course will be held at Seal Chart, Sevenoaks, Kent, from July 11 to 19. This should draw Toc H Rovers from all over the country ; the cost will not be more than 3s. a day. Details will be circulated in due course. The idea of both course and camp is to give Scouters and Instructors a short "refresher," and also to instruct and train the man who feels he knows very little about Scouting.

George Moore will be in charge of each of these courses ; and names of those wishing to take either or both courses should be sent to Alex. Birkmire at H.Q. as early as possible.



The Scout Commissioner for Hampshire announces week-end TRAINING CAMPS AT MARK V for all Scouters (from Commissioners to A.S.M.'s) and Rovers over 18, on May 2-3, 9-10, 16-17, 23-24, 30-June 1, and for Patrol-leaders on June 5-7.



A simpler form of the story of Toc H, something you can see at a glance, has long been wanted—so here it is. No comment is needed, except that (1) the decorations in the black squares are just for fun—they don't help or hinder the solution; (2) A = Across and D = Down; (3) A small figure 2 after A or D means that the missing letters form two words; (4) Init. = Initial and Abbr. = Abbreviation—but you know the whole game by now. If any intelligent member finds difficulty (which is unlikely) it may be possible to print the whole solution next month.

WHEN the (52 A) of the (53 A. init.) (44 D) (11 D. init.) left the (8 D) of (24 D) in 1915, and visited (51 A. 2) at (28 A. abbr.), they little thought that some day, when it was (42 D), they would find (18 D) (20 D) again at work in London. They only knew it (7 D. 2) place where they found genera-(13 D) and even the (47 D. init.) human, and where the whole (49 A) could (46 D)-ter into every (37 D) provided. The fare in (4 D) surpassed the wildest dreams of the (45 D. init.) stores in variety, but there was more than that in it—for (34 D) -ve reigned.

In 1918 fortune seemed to (50 D) and then began to (49 D); (17 A. abbr.) by (17 A. abbr.) we (57 A) ground, (26 A), at last, it was all (42 D). The moveables of (51 A. 2), thanks to a friendly (54 A. init.), (19 A) -und their way (3 D) of (28 A)—and that was that.

But not quite. (18 D), after seeking the (14 A) of old friends (58, 59, 60) (23 D) house (20 D) more. It was a reckless venture, for he had no (19 D). After all, wisdom, as the patriarch says, cannot be compared to the precious (38 D)—and (18 D) had scarcely a red (43 D). But he faced the situation with all the (16 A) of an optimist, and with (56) faith and (56) (6D)—ughter which prevailed. A familiar voice calling "(40 D) come (23 D)" from a top window in Red Lion Square would bring (52 A) into queer company—a sort of new (2 D init.) Buffaloes, indeed a complete "human Zoo." There may have been no bathroom, with (48 D init.), but there was more than that in it—for still (34 D) -ve reigned.

The start was tiny, but the (27 A)-te was terrific—(26 A), only five years afterwards, (1 A) after (1 A) have (57 A) their (6 A), not only at home but in remote corners of the (35 D. init.). And now (12 D) has received (18 D) and (9 D), and before 1923 is out (10 A) and (15 A. init.) are to do the same. No one can tell what this (39 D) "(49 D)" will mean in our history.

Toc H has but one aim—(41 A. 3). It does not (33 A) any—whether (31 A. init.) or (30 A. init.)—from its ranks. (23 D) and down the country old staggers like (22 D. init.) are training the younger generation to serve those still younger. And now the (34 A) stands (7 D. 2) truly in the other half of the world. Our members are (3 D) for more than teaching boys (5 D) or, in the phase of one great society, to be "(21 D)." Whether we work with that society or with (32 A. init.), in touch with older movements like (25 D) or on our own, our aim is all one—(41 A) and change the world we live in. Can (25 A) stand apart? (55) think not.

MULTUM IN PARVO

¶ London House Wardens have the habit of moving fast and far. It is only a week or two since G. S. DUNKLEY left Mark II at short notice for a job in Shanghai, and now F. W. MATHEW is under orders to leave Mark I for Hong-Kong. Good luck to them both—and there will be room in the list for the Shanghai and Hong-Kong Groups when they are ready.

¶ It is hoped to arrange another PUBLIC SCHOOL VISIT to London next holidays, similar to the Wellington-Lancing visit described in last month's JOURNAL (p. 78). This time the party comes from Haileybury and St. Paul's Schools.

¶ IMPORTANT NOTICE.—Those members whose conscience is uneasy when they think of the Registrar are reminded of BY-LAW 2 of Toc H Incorporated:—"§ 2. The said subscription shall be payable on election and thereafter on the 1st of January in every year. § 3. No member whose subscription shall be *in arrear for three months* shall be entitled to vote at any meeting."

¶ Will all branches please note that their FOUNDATION NUMBERS in the list on pp. iv-v of the Annual Report have been revised. The reason for this is simple, and does not imply that any branch is promoted or degraded. When the numbered order was first set out in 1922, London (the great recent growth of which was not foreseen), was reckoned as Branch No. 1, with sections lettered A (Mark I), B (Mark II), &c. This not only does not put the many London branches in their right historical order, but is already becoming very cumbrous. So the simple and only logical course has now been taken.

¶ A job in the KENT HOP-FIELDS awaits members of Toc H—to run a camp for a farm-full of hop-pickers and to help them in the rather difficult conditions of their life there. The place is Crowhurst Farm, Peckham Bush, Hadlow (5 miles from Tonbridge, 7 from Maidstone); the time is anything from a week-end to a fortnight in September; the cost is about 30s. a week. Anyone even vaguely interested should write to R. C. Thompson, Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. It is a job immensely worth while, and so we give notice of it in good time.

¶ The LONDON TOC H SPORTS CLUB CAMPING GROUND at New Barnet is available all the summer for Boys' Camps. Parties may be from Clubs, Scout Troops or any organisation and, of course, of any denomination. Will those who wish to use the ground for their boys, apply at least ten days before (and preferably much earlier) to F. Domone, Mark VII

¶ The Toc H DRAMA LEAGUE is boldly tackling that original and beautiful play *Outward Bound* at the Cripplegate Theatre, E.C.1, on Saturday, May 16. The net proceeds will be divided between the funds of the London Branches and Groups and the work of the Entertainments Committee. Tickets and bills are to be had from the Business Director of the Drama League at H.Q. The Drama League's last show raised £37 for the Sports' Club Camps, and this time they hope to go several better—with your help.

¶ Efforts are being made to establish a Toc H ORCHESTRA in London, much needed for the entertaining side of Toc H service. Any musicians, highbrow or lowbrow, both amongst Toc H and L.W.H. members, or prospective members, are invited to write to the Deputy General Secretary at H.Q. as early as possible so that our musical director can get busy.

¶ It is proposed to arrange a dinner in London on the second evening of the Oxford and Cambridge cricket match for members of the PADRES' FELLOWSHIP and any Padres who served during the War. Those who wish to attend should send their names as soon as they can to Padre Fleming, Chaplain's Quarters, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, S.W. The time, place and cost (which will be kept low) will be announced in the June JOURNAL.

NEWS FROM BRANCHES AND GROUPS

ALDERSHOT.—Our Boys' Club winter season ends this month, and it has been a worthy experiment. With the wrinkles picked up and those gathered from a most able talk by Charlie Thompson, we can lay down sound foundations for next winter. The past month included a whole week collection for the R.N. Lifeboat Institution and stewarding at the War Memorial unveiling by Prince Henry. On the other side a social evening kept us cheerful. MILO.

BARNSLEY.—Fireworks are being lighted in Barnsley, all giving excellent results. Many thanks to Bill, Mac, Peggy, Les, and Blazer. With 16 good chaps, some in C.L.B. or Boy Scouts, others at the Hospital and at odd jobs, we shortly hope to be a real, healthy group.

Meetings : Every Tuesday at 7.15 p.m. in the Drill Hall.

JIMMIE.

BELFAST.—The "Newsboys' Club"—a legacy from B.B.'s visit—has occupied our attention at three successive meetings. Three different committees had failed to produce even a site, and neither in finance nor in arrangements were we any nearer a beginning than a year ago. Outside aid having failed us, it was suggested that we should find a site for ourselves. Suitable premises were discovered that week. A learned professor again addressed us on the subject. Finance and fear of failure were bugbears to some. On the 19th we celebrated our first anniversary with a tea and social evening. It was thought that discussion of the Newsboys' Club should be in abeyance till notice was given at a meeting convened for the purpose. On the 24th the wise were again eloquent, but the majority evidently thought it was better to try for a year and fail than talk for a year and do nothing. In the end all agreed to support the project, and the rent was guaranteed without difficulty. This matter has been the first task of the branch. For the rest, we had a paper by Chisholm on "George MacDonald"; a concert on behalf of Trinity Mission was a great success. "Newsboys" prevented us from hearing a distinguished visitor. We are to be entertained by boys from the Training School next week; and at the anniversary we unexpectedly found ourselves defending Australia. On the whole the Branch has done exceedingly well for a start, and has accomplished some very useful unobtrusive work, and the team-spirit is slowly growing.

PAT.

BEXHILL-ON-SEA.—A month of many happenings. On February 26 we held our second Guest Night, when Rotarian Mummery told us about "Rotary and Boys' Work." We discussed his paper and found a few points of difference, and many points where Toc H can co-operate, and this we hope to do shortly. Business meeting March 13, when the group discussed the Copec report on "Education" with much gusto. We are stewarding the local Copec meetings weekly. March 19 saw our first attempt at a whist drive for group funds—result, thanks to our hard-working committee, £3 profit. On Saturday, March 21, some of our Rovers were transported to Lewes Gaol—to a Scouter and Rover Conference, and in collaboration with Hastings Toc H Rovers and Hurstpierpoint Scouters evolved, after much brain fag, a topical version of "It ain't gonna rain no mo'," which was much appreciated at the camp fire. We believe the Rovers left a good impression behind them which should help Toc H in the county. March 23 was our initiation, as a group and as members. Bentley did the needful with the assistance of the Brighton Lamp, and then he and our Padre, Dean, both said their pieces. 7 a.m. on the 24th saw us at St. Barnabas, where our Padre conducted a celebration for our Anglican members. We have now 17 fully initiated members. Any Toc H Scouters or Rovers down south at Easter will find Toc H in camp on the West Parade, south of Polegrove.

SNOWBALL.

BRISTOL, MARK IX.—In February we had the pleasure of a visit from General Thomas, of Cheltenham, who gave us a very interesting outline of the history of the different tribes in

India. On March 12 our Chairman, Col. Orr, gave us a lantern lecture on "The North-West Frontier." His slides were exceedingly good and his talk even better. Mark IX's knowledge of India is considerably greater now than a month ago.

W. S. G.

BUENOS AIRES.—There is great joy and buzzing in the camp at the promise of a visit by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and we are flooded with applications for membership. The reason of the great rush lies in the fact that Toc H has been little advertised here to date, except such as has been done in a personal way by the few original members. The British "dailies," however, gave great space to the reports of the last Birthday Festival and the Prince's reference to us—hence our shell is broken. A further cause of the great fillip to our activities is the generous promise of a house, fully equipped, by a sympathetic spirit whom we know only as Mr. X. A House Committee has been formed and is busy chasing the City for a suitable house at a figure that would not break the Bank of England—houses here are the height of luxury. Optimism however, prevails, and we are hot on the track of a likely proposition. We are developing a delightful Boys' Club just now for natives. Those who know the Argentine will understand that "native" means little at present except that one was born in the country and developed a strong affection for it. Our lads are representative of all races from Japanese to Czechoslovaks and we really enjoy ourselves mixing in with them. The O's. C. Boys' Clubs are Simons and Curtois and they are beginning well. Simons is struggling to teach the boys cricket; he has only the roughest of pitches and the crudest of weapons, the boys themselves being quite keen and far from slow. We have hopes of mounting the most unique Guard of Honour our Patron has yet struck on the occasion of his visit, but, sh'sh, I must not give away family secrets! For the rest our work lies in giving a hand at the Institutions set up for the entertainment of seamen visiting this port, and it is proving a great education for us. Begg, our new Jobmaster, with a detail knowledge of the City and an active mind, will soon have us fixed up until we plead for a breather.

PETO.

CAMBRIDGE.—For some time now we have realised the peculiar difficulties that a branch in a University town must have, and just lately we have begun to face those difficulties. In this connection Grant, who came up for our first Guest Night this year on January 29, was a tremendous help. His address brought home to the branch as a whole, wherein lay our power to assist Toc H in general, and the ideal to which he suggested we should strive, was the strengthening of the town side—the permanent partner in the branch—an ideal which up till then only a few of us had considered. It was good to have Jock Gillespie, and Ian Bell over from Oxford and to learn that they were faced with just our same problems. The discussion which followed Jock's talk lead us to think that we are now working together and on the right lines. Then there was Sawbones, who was with us on March 3, and Wheeler, who came up to talk on Summer Camps for Boys, to which some of us go during the Long Vac. to act as officers. All things considered, the last three months have been a most propitious opening for 1925.

H. R. C.

COLCHESTER.—On January 21 a supper was held at Day's Restaurant when six members of Ipswich Group were our guests. On March 7 a discussion was held in our room, when Mr. D. L. Round spoke on "Can the Bible story of Creation hold good against the theory of Evolution?" The old stone-wallers, including General Skinner, were there, but the speaker deserved a bigger crowd. Two new members were initiated that night. Alas, we have to pack up and clear out of our room, and have decided to carry on at present at Day's Restaurant. A member is kindly storing our goods, and we are looking for fresh premises. By the great kindness of Mr. Page, we are able to arrange tennis again this year.

Meeting : April 25, Alex Birkmire from H.Q.

W. C. P.

COALVILLE.—Although still in its infancy (official recognition as a group reached us just before Christmas) the Coalville Group of Toc H is now firmly established in this Leicestershire coal-mining centre. Our meetings are held fortnightly in the Y.M.C.A., and are well attended. Membership has now reached 30 and is still rising. Our programmes include lectures on "Flags," "Birds," and "Coal," as well as an interesting debate on "Capital Punishment." Our Jobmaster is getting us well into harness, and already Scout Troops have been taken in hand at Coalville, Hugglescote and Whitwick, while a flourishing troop of Toc H Rovers has also been started with great promise.

PAPA.

DEWSBURY.—During February we were very busy at the Missions to Seamen Exhibition in the Town Hall: there was a Toc H day with our President in the chair. The Secretary has received a letter from Earl Haig thanking the branch for its services on Poppy Day. And now we are busy helping, along with some thirty other local bodies, to organise a great charity carnival to be held in Crow Nest Park on June 20. Plenty of jobs of service are always available here. The work at the Boys' Club is going very satisfactorily, and two of the club members, along with the writer, are carrying out a small job for the Waifs and Strays Society—so that they are starting off with a real desire to serve. Rev. R. Warburton has been appointed Padre to the Branch in succession to Rev. Tait Patterson.

Meetings : April 16 at the Boys' Club (our new H.Q.), Wakefield Road, at 8 p.m.

JAY GEE.

GOOLE.—The year opened well for our successful application for the Goole Lamp. Following up continual work amongst the keelmen's children we gave them a fine New Year's Party, and members are nightly collecting and entertaining these children. The Young Men's Guild is weekly supplied with assistance and all personal jobs kept going. We have plenty of work, our difficulty being want of members, especially nonconformist. To overcome this we held a mass meeting on February 13, when Padres Sawbones (Leicester) and Garaway (Hull) and the Hull Secretary explained to the public of Goole what Toc H is.

Meetings : Fortnightly on Mondays at the National Schools, Goole.

C. S. H.

HAMMERSMITH.—On March 4 Barkis came and gave us a talk on Toc H, especially for the benefit of boys from St. Paul's School, of whom about twenty were present and four have since joined our Group, and will no doubt become real active members when their school days are finished. We certainly think we ought to have a great many more "Paulines," not only for the sake of what Toc H stands for, but for Tubby's sake as a "Pauline." We are now running a Boys' Club at Fellowship Hall, where we shall in future hold our meetings (instead of at Hampshire House, as hitherto).

Meetings : At Fellowship Hall (corner of Rowan Road, next door to the King's Theatre), April 2, 16, 30; May 14.

P. E. C.

HAROLD WOOD.—We feel it our duty first of all this month to congratulate Mrs. Freeman and the Committee on the splendid start they have made with the Girl Guides and the fine impression they created at their first Church Parade on March 22. Following this fine example, we hope with all friends interested to start a troop of Boy Scouts in the near future to level things up a bit. We had a fine Guest Night on the 23rd when Colonel Grant gave us a lantern lecture on "Africa"; he had to cut it short to catch his train, but we hope to hear the finish on another occasion. We are sending a squad to see the Ilford boys on the 25th and hope they will have a good time.

H. M.

HARTLEPOOLS.—Since our last report was published in the JOURNAL things have been humming along in the "Pools." The "House to House" Collection for the Hospitals at

Christmas brought in the sum of £204, and since then there has been quite a lot of good work going on. A Soup Kitchen has been run by one of our members throughout the winter and on an average 80 people a week were fed. We have been in touch with the Hartlepools Police Court missioner who has given us the names of a number of boys who are put on Probation, and some of our members are now in touch with these lads. Some of our optimistic members are already discussing the possibility of forming a Boys' Club for these lads, but we will have to wait and see. There are a number of other proposals in the air, such as a scheme for providing and running a library in the hospitals of the town, which will be thoroughly discussed at our next meeting. March 16 was our "Birthday," and to commemorate this event we held a dinner. Sixty of us sat down to a good feed, amongst which were Peggy Lodge and Les Abdy. We also had visitors from Gateshead, South Shields, Durham and Middlesbrough branches. "Peggy" gave us a good talk on Toc H, its origin, growth and objects, and we sincerely hope a number of new members will be the result.

F. S. S.

LEICESTER.—H.R.H. the Patron "blew in," friendly-wise, to a crowded branch meeting on the evening of March 26. After being shown round the house, as all newly-imploding members are, he joined us in song and chorus in the Murray-Smith Club-room, greeted us collectively in a few brief words, such as other Chief-Guests have used before, though none more simply true nor more spontaneously sincere, lit our Lamp with simple dignity and went out to his wider sphere of duty amid a tornado of cheering. His message to us and our loyal duty to him found no set form of words, but something indefinable was strongly felt and will long remain in our memories and in our hearts : "*To conquer hate*" ; "*Icb dien*" (*I serve*) is a happy juxtaposition that challenges to deeper thought, wider sympathy and renewed endeavours towards more faithful service. Our speaker after supper was Mr. A. I. Groves of the Cripples' Guild, who told us with simple directness that outran mere eloquence the story of his twenty-five years' work on behalf of and among the local cripples. On March 4 the Rev. A. C. Knight, the Padre of the Derby Branch, came over to give us a very interesting lantern lecture on "Ancient Crete." The week following the Leicester Director of Education gave us a very happy little talk, which stimulated some almost fierce discussion and led to future fixtures of a like nature. March 18 was given over to Jobmaster "Bill," who used it to very good purpose, and was still left with a good deal up his sleeve. Congratulations to "Mosso" and "Taps" on their Scoutmaster Warrants. Mark XI becomes increasingly a centre of wider activities ; expansion into the County grows apace.

Meetings : Wednesdays at 8 p.m. April 1, "Sawbones" ; April 8, "Robey" of Mansfield ; April 15, General Post ; April 22, Barkis ; April 29, Mr. A. J. S. Cannon, H.M. of Ellis Avenue Intermediate School ; May 6, Canon Sturdee.

LONDON : MARK VII.—The wild woodlands of Fitzroy Square are a strong stimulus to the Scout movement, and the number of bare knees in and around Mark VII continues to increase. Another Boys' Club has been set going, and the branch has amused itself by acting as stewards at a variety of shows. We have had talks from Mr. Stewart Murray on "Palestine," from Mr. Hadley of the G.W.R., from Miss Brittain on her visit to Germany. A deeply interesting lecture was given on February 19 by Professor Adkins on "Recent historical drama," and on March 19 Guy Ewing (First Countrymen's Branch) talked about "Jobs in the country-side." On April 16 Mr. Hilton, of Wandsworth Gaol, speaks to us on the work of a prison governor. On March 12 and 26 the "Hailey" met. In answer to inquiries, we may say that this society is called after the baptismal name of our first and, so far, only Warden, and implies the reading of a paper on any old subject by a branch member, followed by a heated discussion on *any* subject that may arise. Several embryo estate agents have recently stayed with us

during their exams, and we hope to see them again at a less excruciating time. Gilbert Williams smiles in and out periodically, and we heartily welcome Brochner, who comes to "buttress" up the heights of Hampstead and all the rest of this Northland. C. W.

LONDON DISTRICT: *Fixtures*.—MARK I.—April 1, business meeting; April 8, Grantibus on "Africa"; April 15, the House entertains boys from the Venture Club; April 22, the Rural Dean of Fulham; April 29, Bevan on "Beer"; May 6, business meeting. MARK II.—Every Thursday. April 2, Barkis; April 16, Branch Meeting; April 23, H. R. Macdonald on "Sport." MARK III.—Every Wednesday. THE BROTHERS' HOUSE.—Every Monday. MARK XV.—Alternate Mondays and Tuesdays. MARK XXII.—Last Wednesday of each month. BROMLEY.—At Mason's Hill School (below Bromley South Station—new meeting place), April 14, Padre O. G. Whitfield; April 23, Alderman Bertram Pearce on "Local Government"; April 30, Alderman A. G. Hains. Every Sunday night, 9 p.m., in house of Padre Bartholomew, 1, Queen Anne's Avenue, impromptu study-circle on Basil Mathews' "Clash of Colour." CROYDON.—Tuesdays at Toc H Hut, Selsdon Road, S. Croydon. EALING.—Alternate Mondays at Y.M.C.A., Bond Street, Ealing. HAMPSTEAD.—Alternate Wednesdays and Fridays at Eastern Telegraph School, Shepherd's Walk, Rosslyn Hill; April 3, sing-song; April 17, Chairman of the Magistrates on "Probation." ISLINGTON.—At 81, Cottenham Road, N.W.19; April 2, 8, 14, 20, 30. KINGSTON AND SURBITON.—Alternate Wednesdays at The Gables Theatre. MAIDA VALE.—Weekly at Cumberland House (opposite Warwick Road Station). NORWOOD.—Alternate Fridays at "The Knoll," Crystal Palace Parade, S.E.19. STEPNEY.—Alternate Thursdays at Haileybury House, Durham Row (Stepney Green Station). SYDENHAM.—Alternate Mondays at the Winter Garden of the "Old Cedars," West Hill. TOWER HILL.—Mondays at the Porch Room, All Hallows. WIMBLEDON.—Alternate Fridays at the Welcome Hall. TIC TOCS: *Performances at 7.30 p.m.*—April 17, at Central Library, Holloway Road; April 20, at Church Hall, Cromer Street, King's Cross; April 24, at Hampstead; May 1, at Margaret Morris Theatre, King's Road, Chelsea; May 9, at Recreation Hall, Park Grove, Withyham, Sussex; May 12, at St. Mark's Church Hall, Gladstone Avenue, Wood Green.

LUTON.—We were tremendously bucked early in March to receive a communication from Tubby, wishing us success and telling us to "keep the home fires burning." A lot has been done since our last notes appeared, and our meetings attract a larger number each week. We have had some interesting debates, one of which on "Can War be Justified?" produced very keen discussion. We had a large crowd to hear Padre Birkmire, and were so encouraged by his talk that we shall soon apply for branch status. On March 24 we held a "Magazine-night"; the very varied subjects included "With Smuts in East Africa," "Friendship," "People I have met," "A Box of Matches," &c. On March 31 we are to have a debate on "Housing," following the introduction of a bill which has been drafted for "Uncle" Basil Levett. A recent casual visitor, who told us frankly that he didn't believe in ritual, said afterwards that he was greatly impressed with our little ceremony of "Light," and urged us not to lessen the time of silence (*an illustration of what is said on page 105.—ED.*).

MANSFIELD.—With the opening of our club room at the Sweetville Hall on March 6 the Group may be said to have passed the first milestone of its progress, having, after eight months of existence, secured a home of its own, compact if not very commodious, and conveniently situated next door to the police station. A noble army of amateur painters and paperhanglers has, with the valuable assistance of the Toc Emmas, made the room habitable; Bee, one of our members, has given a carpet, and music (?) will be made on a piano discarded from a local "pub," which we hope to pay for out of the proceeds of a jumble sale for which we are now

preparing. (What the members will wear after this event is a question which is causing some little anxiety.) The form of service in the Birthday Thanksgiving Book was used at the opening of the room, and a most inspiring address was given by Padre Billy, of Sheffield, who also gave us some valuable practical hints as to future work. The main team job undertaken lately is that of supplying the man power to run a Y.M.C.A. boys' club. On January 30 Padre J. M. Shaw, of Halifax, gave us an address on C.O.P.E.C., and it was decided to form a study circle when we had settled down in our new home. Q. M. G., one of our members, spoke about the British Legion on February 6, and explained how Toc H could help the movement—notably, by providing "uncles" to look after fatherless children. A concert party, led by Firpo, recently gave an entertainment at the Berry Hill Convalescent Home.

TAFFY.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—The dedication of our Lamp has been arranged to take place in Newcastle Cathedral on Sunday, April 26 at evensong, and Padre Williams, of Sheffield, will preach at both morning and evening services. The dedication service should give a great impetus to the movement in this district. "Les" Abdy, the new organiser for the district, is now established in Newcastle, with our meeting room as his headquarters, and we hope for good results from his work. A number of our members visited Wooley Sanatorium on Saturday, February 28, at the invitation of Dr. McDougall, and were much impressed by the splendid spirit which prevails (see article on p. 108). There are rumours of a part-time Padre, a hostel, and new headquarters, all of which may be in being within the next few months. More about these in next month's JOURNAL.

Meetings : Every Wednesday at 8 p.m., Toc H Room, 14, Hood Street (3rd floor).

PITMAN.

NORTHAMPTON.—We held an informal meeting on March 4. On March 11 Dr. H. Schofield, Principal of the Loughborough College, came down, and gave an address on "Modern Methods of Training for Engineers," and the methods adopted at Loughborough. We have W. C. C. Cooke, Esq., headmaster of the Northampton School, coming to see us on March 25.

V. L.

NORWICH.—On the morning of February 5 a telegram from the Branch was sent to Tubby and Pat Leonard at Mark V, Southampton, wishing them God speed on the world tour. We have had our Annual Meeting ; in addition to Jobmaster, Secretary, and Treasurer, members of executive Programme and Entertainment Committees were chosen after keen balloting. Boddy, our Treasurer, has had to hand over the job to "Alladin," who is also guardian of the lamp (having received it from the Patron). The members of Princes Street Congregational Church Debating Society arranged a debate with us at their "parlour" under the chapel, and there was a useful debate on the subject—"Youth serves the State better than age." Miss Lamb, organiser of a big campaign the Y.W.C.A. held in Norwich to start a large central club for girls and women in the city, spoke to us and unfolded the wonderful scheme the Y.W.C.A. has in view. We arranged to help by systematically distributing notices, and Inman and a few others arranged to give on one evening of this campaign week a lantern demonstration of the Y.W.C.A. work from a cart in the Market Place. The Branch now gives regular help three nights a week at one of the Y.M.C.A. Boys' Clubs in a very poor part of the city, and in response to a request from the All Hallows' (Ditchingham) Sisters, has formed and is running a definite Club for poor boys they are interested in. The choice of representative from the Branch to Central Council fell on "The Doc." Mr. J. Day—a candidate for Parliament at the last Election—gave us an interesting address on "Individuality." A short time back the local Branch of I.C.F. asked us if we could help them to find a new secretary : one of our members, Day, has been appointed. Another member of the Branch—

representing Toc H—has been put on the Executive Committee of Norwich Police Court Mission. Largely due to the energy and keenness of Booth, our Annual Whist Drive in aid of St. Dunstan's was a success. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress distributed the prizes, and the Lord Mayor—a member of the Branch—spoke on the objects of Toc H. WRITER.

NOTTINGHAM.—The advent of Spring coupled with the appalling "frost" at tightly packed weekly meetings has turned our thoughts to the open-air and a summer camp, so now we are looking for a site both ideal for camping and a strategic point for launching Toc H attacks on villages holding "contacts." A talk on Rovers by our Rover Commissioner member has caused a patrol to blossom forth—to which we hope to prefix Toc H in due course. The Y.M.C.A. Junior Section have found us two more jobs; our Concert Party—a real one—is much in demand, while talks on "Boyhood," "Canada," and an evening's open discussion on aspects of Toc H have brought packed meetings. Sawbones, having gripped a crowded church with the story of Toc H, later in the last week of February delighted a full turn-out of members. Lastly a run over to Loughborough to hear Lt. Spry and to meet many old friends has but strengthened our intention to keep the home fires burning till the "two bhoys come home"!

JACKO.

READING—We must open with congratulations to Padre and Mrs. Money on Jack's arrival, and then to ourselves upon securing such interesting speakers as Alec Paterson on "Prison Reform" and Etty of Reading University College on "Equality of opportunity in education." We were glad to welcome Padres Money and Mumford on February 20. We have at least one fixture for the cricket season—G.W.R. Athletic, and congratulate Toc H (somewhere in London) on defeating Reading University College 1-0 on the soccer field.

JADEY.

ROMFORD.—Having taken our courage in both hands we forded the Rom and here we are—a new Group! Like jolly old Cæsar, we are "leaving our winter quarters" and going to earthquake all over the place until the whole district really sits up and takes notice. Our plans include regular visiting at the Infirmary; a seat on the Council for Work amongst Boys (with a Boys' Club run partly by Rotary and partly by Toc H in the offing); an inquiry into the slum question in the district; help with the Tuberculosis Care Committee, and many other side-lines. We meet every Thursday at 8 p.m. at the Church House, Market Place—an ideal club-room, for was it not a "pub" in the old days and is not the *Cock and Bell* still to be seen on the front door? Look out ye Wooden Harolds and ye Evil Fords: we shall raid you yet!

LEN.

RUGBY.—The Social Club which we started in the Padre's village has been a great success and a real asset to the junior villagers. On February 15 members of the Group attended the Sportsman's Service which was held in the Padre's village and conducted by him. At our monthly meeting in February we received our first talk, which was given by Mr. Pearce on "Reading." On March 30 Captain Dane gave the Group a lecture on "India." We have appointed a Flying Squad for the purpose of chasing up isolated members of Toc H in the surrounding district. In May St. Dunstan's are holding a Flag Day in the town, and we hope to be able to co-operate with the British Legion to make this a huge success. The Group is also considering the possibility of holding a Summer Camp for boys, and if any Branch or Group is considering a similar venture the Secretary would be pleased to hear of their programme with a view to making the Camp a joint concern. Field, one of our first members, leaves us this month, and we hope the Nottingham Branch will see something of him in the near future.

JUMBO.

SALFORD.—Our hive has been buzzing incessantly of late and apparently to some purpose. As a result of a talk from Ald. Rothwell, J.P., we are considering the formation of a Toc H Committee of the Civic League of Help. The Royal National Lifeboat Institution has asked us to undertake the stewarding arrangements when the new motor lifeboat is "christened" in the Salford Docks preparatory to taking up its station at Douglas. Major Bird has talked to us of the work of the British Legion and of Ex-Servicemen's Relief Work in which several of our members are taking a not inconsiderable part. Mr. A. Riley of Swinton has given us a most delightful evening on "Books and how to read them." With the yeoman help of the Toc Emmas we held a Whist Drive on S. Valentine's Day, realising over £13 for the area funds. On the recreational side we have joined forces with Mark IV in the formation of a Toc H Rugger Club; a Tennis Club has been formed; and what is hoped will be the first of a series of week-end rambles has been held. The Gilbert Talbot Rover Patrol hopes soon to be esconced in its cellar den. A recent Guest Night was devoted to the vexed topic of Sunday Games, and after a lengthy debate, in which almost every member of the family present joined, it was agreed by a majority of two to one that "Sunday Games are desirable." Pat's final "Adieu" took the form of a family service in the Chapel on the Sunday evening ere he sailed, and at the same time the Unknown Soldier's Cross was received and re-dedicated. To the House has also been entrusted by his mother the Battle Cross of Edward Brittain, to whom one of the rooms is dedicated, and we now have a room in the House to the memory of the Unknown Warrior. Pat's final message rings in our ears yet and urges us to "Look wide but dig deep."

WILLOW.

SHEFFIELD.—The Branch has been mostly engaged in "digging in," and the ordinary work continues. Hostellers keep on changing, and we have exchanged our Secretary, Richards, for "Clarry Hull," who, as hosteller, can be oftener on the spot for meetings and correspondence: "Riccy" remains to serve us as extension secretary, dealing with new-comers, new members and propaganda. We have had a brief visit from Padre Woods of Cambridge, have discussed C.O.P.E.C. and a whist drive. We face the prospect of some flag-days; the boys' club work goes steadily on, and M. D. cases and Industrial Schoolboys are looked after.

Meetings: April 1, Councillor Thraves on "Trades Unions"; April 29, Councillor Nunn, J.P., on "The work of a magistrate"; May 20, a concert; May 27, lecture on "The Land of the Midnight Sun." Other evenings are business nights. "Light" always at 8 p.m. MAC.

SHOREHAM AND LANCING.—The Group had its official start early in the month, when Birkmire and Kerswell of Worthing addressed a very successful meeting of members and prospective members. The Worthing Branch were responsible in a large measure for the meeting, and a large contingent of Worthing members put in an appearance. Another public meeting is to be held this month.

M. A. P.

SIDCUP is glad to record a steady increase in its membership, which will enable us at last to undertake further jobs. We have had some first-rate meetings since our promotion. The visits of Alex. Birkmire, Beresford Ingram and Padre "Mac" have greatly enlightened us as to the wonderful scope of work in and for Toc H. Our greatest event this year was the dedication of our Lamp given in memory of Richard Lionel Ford. This took place in our Padre's School Chapel on January 15, the dedication being made by Dr. Lionel Ford, Headmaster of Harrow. It was a service that will live long in our memories and to which a deeper significance was added owing to the close relationship of Dr. Ford to Gilbert Talbot. With great emotion Dr. Ford told us of the character of his son, who, although called "home" so early in life, had shown signs of one who would have done much for Toc H, one who was full

of all that stood for self-sacrifice and service. We are glad to possess his photograph, which reposes near the Lamp while it stands in the Chapel, and still more proud that our Lamp should be dedicated not only in the memory of our Elder Brethren but of one whose splendid character will inspire us to maintain the bright light of remembrance.

Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month at Scout H.Q., Nelson Road.

WORTHING.—On March 12 our Padre, Bond, of Lancing College, gave us a talk on the Public School system, which led to quite an interesting debate; while on the 24th Springhall interested and amused us with his stories of the life of the pre-war soldier, compared with the present conditions. He laid particular emphasis in the greater interest shown in the moral welfare of the soldier, and remarked that the progress of the last thirty years has to a large extent broken down the prejudice that formerly existed against the rank and file of the Army.

M. A. P.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN HELPERS.

AUSTRALIA.—*Extract from a letter to Tubby and Peter Monie from Padre HAYES. 13.2.25*: “The Toc Emmas are splendid. They had a meeting in another room of Anzac House at the same time as ours (i.e. *Melbourne and District Provisional Group* on February 10), and at a certain time all came in to our meeting by invitation, when Earl Stradbroke (*Governor of Victoria*) addressed us all. They all wore their Australian Toc Emma badges which are admired by everybody, many people preferring them in gold which means profit on each. We have volunteered to help the Rotarians in their Boys' Week in April, when they are out to raise £10,000 in Melbourne alone. The Toc Emmas volunteered too, and it has made a great impression. I was also asked if we would help a digger, who lies on his back as a result of wounds, to get a wireless set, and two Toc Emmas gave half a guinea each. The Emmas are going to put the Scout Headquarters ship-shape, and are as keen as mustard in every way, as are the men.”

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